

GOD IS ALIVE

Part 9 of Knowing God. Mark 16:5-6.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 31, 2024.

WHAT IS EASTER?

Easter is the day in the Christian calendar when we emphasize the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mark 16:5-6 (CSB) When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. 6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.”

- We believe in the deity, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He is alive!

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

It’s normal to have questions about the Christian faith.

- Today’s teaching is designed to reassure Christians and to convince those with doubts by answering their questions honestly.

There are twelve historical facts accepted by critical historians.

- Dr. Gary Habermas is a world-class expert on the Resurrection.
 1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
 2. Jesus was buried.
 3. Jesus' death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope.
 4. The tomb was empty
 5. The disciples had experiences which they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus
 6. The disciples were transformed from doubters to bold proclaimers.
 7. The resurrection was their central message.
 8. They preached the resurrection in Jerusalem.
 9. The Church was born and grew.

10. Orthodox Jews who believed in Christ, made Sunday their primary day of worship.
11. James, the brother of Jesus was a major skeptic, but was converted to the faith when he saw the resurrected Jesus
12. Paul, also a strong skeptic, was converted to the faith

THE RISEN JESUS WAS SEEN, HEARD, AND TOUCHED

There have been many objections to the Resurrection.

- But historical research has debunked them all.
- The New Testament records twelve occasions when the risen Jesus appeared. For example:

John 20:19-29 describes Jesus appearing to his disciples.

- **Jesus appeared at a specific time and place:** 19 When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them,
- **The disciples heard and saw Jesus:** ... and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- **The disciples proclaimed the risen Jesus:** 24 But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”
- **There was a skeptic:** But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”
- **Jesus appeared again:** 26 A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

- **The skeptic touched Jesus:** 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.”
- **The skeptic believed:** 28 Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God! ”

Saul or Paul of Tarsus met Jesus.

- Paul wrote about it in a letter to the church in Corinth @ 55 AD.
- He quoted a “creed” dating back to maybe two years after resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 (CSB) He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and ... appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. 6 Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, he also appeared to me.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

The one thing we can’t do is ignore the Resurrection.

- We should ask: “What does this mean for my life?”

Already a Christian?

- It means we should rest in peace with God and the peace of God.

Not yet a Christian?

- It means we should dig deeper, ask questions, do research.

Ready to Become a Christian?

“Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for your sins, and then he was raised from the dead. Jesus is alive. Forgiveness is proclaimed to you. This is freedom held out for you. Receive him, believe him, embrace him.” (Jonathan Parnell: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-resurrection-demands-response>)

RESURRECTION RESOURCES

Videos

- 5 Facts for the Resurrection by 36 AD. Gary Habermas.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWhIVFJ4xUo>
- Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qhQRMhUK1o>
- Resurrection Timeline Message
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gaoC7ua4Mk>

Online Articles

- The website of Dr. Gary Habermas.
<https://www.garyhabermas.com/>
- The Reliability of the New Testament. Craig Blomberg.
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/reliability-new-testament/>
- 10 Concise Pieces of Evidence for the Resurrection. George Sinclair.
<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-concise-pieces-of-evidence-for-the-resurrection/>
- Is There Evidence of Jesus' Resurrection? Brittany Yesudasan.
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/core-christian-beliefs/resurrection-evidence.html>

Books

- I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist. Geisler & Turek.
- The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus. Habermas & Licona.
- On the Resurrection: The Evidences. Gary Habermas.
- Evidence that Demands a Verdict. Josh McDowell.
- More Than a Carpenter. Josh McDowell.